

IMPLANTABLE MEDICAL DEVICE WITH TEXT MESSAGING CAPABILITY

Abstract of the Disclosure

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A method of communicating text messages to a clinician as a reminder that certain program changes are to be made to a medical tissue stimulating device implanted in a patient. An external programmer capable of transmitting and receiving radio-frequency messages to and from the implant and visually displaying information is used to transmit text messages along with a text message initiation date and a text message termination date to the implanted device. These data are stored in a memory of the implanted device's microprocessor-based controller. Subsequently, at the time of a regularly scheduled patient follow-up, the implant may be interrogated by the external programmer and the text message read out and displayed if the time of the interrogation falls between the text message initiation date and its termination date. The method may further involve assigning a priority flag to the text message when it is stored in the implanted device so that upon interrogation, the text message may be displayed in a manner dictated by the priority code.

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